From: ludwig@mac.com@inetgw

To: Microsoft ATR

Date: 1/24/02 1:44pm

Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern,

I am appalled at the suggested settlement of the MS antitrust case. It pays but lip service to many of the more serious problems in Microsoft's business practices that lead to their non-competitive actions in the past.

The suggestions that Microsoft publish API's for Internet Explorer, Microsoft Java, Windows Media Player, Windows messenger, and Outlook Express, is a step in the right direction, but the DOJ definition of API is too narrow, allowing MS to easily avoid any of these requirements through semantic loopholes.

Microsoft's strangle hold on the PC market is as much tied to the Window's-only software they make, as it is to the services they make. To ensure the existence of fair competition within the PC world, it should be required that Microsoft publish sufficient API's to ensure that cross platform versions of the software (either published third party, or by Microsoft) offer at the least an equivalent user experience to the following Microsoft applications and services when run on a PC running a Microsoft OS: Microsoft Internet Explorer, Microsoft Java, Media Player, Messenger, Outlook Express, Exchange Server, Access. Microsoft should be directly responsible for making available applications and plugins that provide compatibility for Microsoft Java, Media Player, Messenger, Exchange, and Access to cross platform users. Further, these solutions should provide equivalent functionality, stability, and performance as their Windows counterparts. This compatibility should extend to similar services (i.e. not rendered invalid when Microsoft changes the names of its products). Lastly, Microsoft should be forced to release the most current MS Word, and MS Excel document types, such that competing products can offer full compatibility with documents created using the Microsoft Office Suite. This way, Microsoft can win their customer base by the strength of their solutions and superiority of their software alone, instead of strong-arm monopolistic tactics they've used in the past.

Microsoft should be split into four separate entities to abate unfair business practices they've used in the past:

Microsoft Windows: responsible for the core OS only. The sole functionality of this body is to author software responsible for controlling the PC hardware, and working with third party companies to support peripherals such as network devices, printers, scanners, cameras, mice, keyboards, monitors, etc. They should only work with

software and products that reliably translate user input into hardware instruction, and publish no other software, such as word processors, web browsers, etc.

Microsoft Software: responsible for continuing development of Internet Explorer, Office, Messenger, Java, Exchange, Outlook, Media Player, Microsoft's gaming division, solitaire, notepad, DOS applications etc.

Microsoft Hardware: Assumes development of microsoft keyboards, mice, game pads and joysticks, other input devices, and XBox development.

Microsoft Network: Microsoft's networking solutions, IIS and .NET initiatives, NT technologies, and server strategies.

It should not require decades of litigation and the intervention of the DOJ to ensure that a company conduct business in an honorable fashion. Microsoft is an embarrassment to every honest and good natured human being.

Sincerely,

Leonard Park